University of Massachusetts Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Sarah Poissant, Chair
2023 - 2024

Noon, April 10, 2024
Goessman 250
Zoom Meeting:
https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96777999264

Meeting Minutes
33 in Attendance

22 Members of the Graduate Council in Attendance

Braden, Tom	Butler, Caitlyn
Caicedo, Ana	DeConto, Rob
Friedman, Jennifer	Hess, Traci
Klug, Abby	Marcotte, Amanda
McGregor, Andrew	Mitra, Gaurav
Mohammed, Fareed	Paik, Tony
Poissant, Sarah	Pullannolla, Sumanth
Ramsey-Musolf, Darrel	Reznik-Zellen, Rebecca
Seven, Memnun	Tachtiris, Corine
Trivedi, Kalpen	Urla, Jacqueline
Vandenberg, Laura	Woodmansee, Kate

11 Members of the Graduate School in Attendance

Alhassan, Sofiya	Bauer-Clapp, Heidi
DeSantis, Lindsay	Kelder, Nicole
Laramie, Devin	Mellin, Susan
Monesson-Olson, Bryan	Passonno, Shana
Pope, Denise	Rathod, Bharat
Yunker, Johanna	

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Sarah Poissant called the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

II. Approval of March 13, 2024 meeting minutes
March 13, 2024 minutes were accepted by the full Graduate Council.

III. Comments by Graduate Dean/Graduate Council Chair/Faculty Senate Secretary
As this meeting inadvertently conflicted with an MSP meeting, Dean Urla reminded the Council how we set the calendar for meetings. Sarah explained our meetings are standing meetings and always fall on the second Wednesday of the month from 12-1:30pm. We rely on a consistent meeting

schedule to ensure proposals are ready for committee and Faculty Senate meetings. Graduate Council meeting dates are shared early to avoid conflict.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

- GPD LEAD Resource Archive
  - Denise Pope shared the screen and demonstrated how to navigate the GPD LEAD Table of Contents on the website.
  - If anyone has issues with access, email grad-communications@grad.umass.edu.
  - GPD LEAD schedule gets published by start of semester. If anyone wants to suggest something for next Fall, please contact Denise.
    - Laura Vandenberg offered to come speak to GPDs about training grants.

- Possibility of new Graduate Faculty Status to Chair Master's Committees
  - Dean Urla is considering a new graduate faculty status for lecturers to chair master's committees. We've been receiving an increasing number of these types of requests.
  - There is currently only one type of graduate faculty status ("G" status) that allows chairing of thesis/dissertation committees.
    - Generally, the faculty member should be research active, tenure-track/tenured, and have a permanent appointment to receive "G" status.
    - There is room on the request form to explain special circumstances.
    - Someone without a PhD may be more experienced and would be an appropriate fit to serve on the committee, but not to chair.
  - There are professional programs where there may not be traditional master's thesis but other projects. The Grad School only approves committees. It's currently up to the program/department to nominate and run master's projects how they see fit.
  - In LLC, most faculty are lecturers and it's a necessity for them to take on extra committee work due to staffing issues. We can have a bigger discussion.
  - Tony Paik discussed tracking metrics: tenure line in terms of credit hours taught.
    - Might want to request creating the same dashboard used for doctoral dissertations, but for master's students.
    - Dean Urla will talk to Krisztina Filep in UAIR about generating data that shows credit hours according to type of faculty appointment/advising.

- Revisiting Required Syllabus Proposal
  - Faculty Senate did accept to vote at last meeting. There was one significant change made to the proposal following the point in time at which the Graduate Council had approved it. Specifically, the option to provide a link to required syllabus statements was removed from the proposal. Sarah brought this change before the Council today for review and discussion.
  - Students need to know which faculty are responsible employees for Title IX purposes.
    - ASCC has started looking into this; some confusion may exist between Title IX responsible employees and mandatory reporters (or abuse). For example, nurses are

mandatory reporters for minors, the elderly, and people with disabilities. We will need to have a broader discussion. This can include nursing, clinical psych, etc.
    - Laura Vandenberg noted asking Christine Wilda, Associate Chancellor of Compliance if she has a list of others who are mandatory reporters.
    - Tony explained the difference between mandatory reporters and responsible employees. Anyone in a leadership role is a responsible employee. Mandatory reporter is defined by law and differs by state.
- Council members re-considered the option of allowing faculty to provide links to the policy/required statements on the syllabus instead of listing them verbatim. Reasons for doing so include the following:
    - Links would always provide the most up-to-date statements.
    - The requirement for including them verbatim may change the tone of an otherwise "warm" syllabus, which has been empirically shown to increase students' help-seeking behaviors.
        - Sarah will draft language for the proposal and send it to the council for feedback by Monday, 4/15, then will send it to Tony on Tuesday, 4/16.
            - Will need to submit the proposal through CCMS under "Revise a Policy" and indicate the desire to change that one section of senate document.

VI. ASCC Committee Report

Convert an Experimental Course to a Permanent Course

- MUSIC 543K Survey of Keyboard Chamber Music 02/15/2024 (ref #11453)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11453

- MUSIC 543F French Art Song 02/15/2024 (ref #11454)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11454

- MUSIC 543G German Poem/Lied 02/16/2024 (ref #11455)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11455

- BCT 590B Advanced Construction Technology Trends and Material Testing 10/02/2023 (ref #10829)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10829

- COMM 614 Media Theories 03/12/2024 (ref #11579)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11579

- COMM 801 Proseminar: Graduate Introduction to Communication 03/13/2024 (ref #11585)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11585

- HPP 825 Social & Political Economy of Health Inequities 10/28/2023 (ref #11001)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11001

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposal subject to a minor revision.

- CHEM 790 Electrochemistry 08/29/2022 (ref #9006)
https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/9006

Create a New Course

- CE-ENGIN 687 Sustainability Engineering for Infrastructure Systems 02/23/2024 (ref #11490)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11490

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals subject to minor revisions.

- POLISCI 793ST Theories of Interpretation 01/26/2024 (ref #11349)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11349

- ART 673 Introduction to Animation 02/13/2024 (ref #11437)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11437

Create a Minor Course Revision

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposal subject to a minor revision.

- STOCKSCH 535 - Diagnostic Plant Pathology 03/06/2024 (ref #11550) – *Increasing credits from 3 to 4*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11550

Revise a Degree Program

- Educational Policy, Research and Administration Education (MEd) 07/11/2023 (ref #10520) – *Revision to Dual Degree MEd + MPPA Program*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10520

Revise an Accelerated Degree Program

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposal subject to a minor revision.

- Revise Accelerated Master's of Higher Education (4+1) (ref #10895) -- *Accelerated Master's Degree option for the Higher Education Concentration in the Educational Policy, Research & Administration Department*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10895

All proposals were fully approved by the Graduate Council.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others, as appropriate

1. Graduate School Administrators – Devin Laramie announced there would be a registration reminder sent out today for the Graduate Celebration of Excellence on May 3.
2. GSS/Student Members – Gaurav Mitra reported that elections had been successful. PhD student John Arigbede will become the next GSS President. Master's students Dhruv Vinod Tiwari and Ian Tincknell will be the next Vice President and Treasurer, respectively.

VIII. Announcements

None.

IX. Adjournment by 1:30pm or sooner

Sarah reminded the council to send any feedback for proposal about allowing links to required statements in syllabi by the end of Monday. Sarah ended the meeting at 1:02pm.